

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: CONFRONTATION BETWEEN GOA AND THE UNIVERSITY

1. SUMMARY. EDUCATION MINISTER TAIANA ON DEC. 10 ORDERED THE FIRING OF TWO LEFTIST UNIVERSITY OF BUENOS AIRES PROFESSORS BY APPLYING THE NEW LAW SUSPENDING TENURE FOR CIVIL SERVANTS. THE OPEN DEFIANCE OF TWO UNIVERSITY INTERVENTORS, VILLANUEVA AND KESTELBOIM, WHO ARE BALKING AT CARRYING OUT THE ORDER, OPENS THE WAY FOR A SERIOUS ESCALATION OF THE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN UNIVERSITY AND THE GOA. END SUMMARY.

2. A SERIOUS ESCALATION OF THE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE GOA AND LEFTIST INTERVENTORS WHO WERE APPOINTED IN THE FIRST DAYS OF THE CAMPORA ADMINISTRATION IS SHAPING UP ON THE UNIVERSITY LEVEL. THE CONFLICT CAME ABOUT WHEN EDUCATION MINISTER TAINA SOUGHT TO APPLY THE NEWLY PASSED LAW ALLOWING THE FIRING OF CIVIL SERVANTS (SEE BA-7997) TO TWO UNIVERSITY OF BUENOS AIRES PROFESSORS. THE LAW WAS DESIGNED MAINLY TO PURGE NON-PERONISTS BUT IN THIS CASE IS BEING USED AGAINST TWO EXTREME LEFTIST PERONISTS, RODOLFO ORTEGA PENA AND EDUARDO DUHALDE.

3. THE TWO EDITORS OF THE MAGAZINE "MILITANCIA," A LEFTIST PERONIST PUBLICATION. DUHALDE AND ORTEGA PENA HAD BEEN
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REMOVED FROM THEIR ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS BECAUSE OF THE MAGAZINE'S CRITICISM OF THE LASTIRI GOVERNMENT, BUT

WERE ALLOWED TO RETAIN THEIR TEACHING POSITION. IN ELECTIONS TO CHOOSE FACULTY REPRESENTATIVES HELD DEC 14, THE TWO PROFESSORS WERE ON THE LOSING SLATE OF EXTREME LEFTISTS WHO IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES WITH THE "PERONISMO DE BASE" GROUP. THE WINNING SLATE WAS ALIGNED WITH THE MORE MODERATE LEFTIST JUVENTUD TRABAJADOR PERONISTA (JTP).

4. THE INTERVENTOR OF THE LAW SCHOOL, DR. ARIO DEST LBOIM, HAS STATED THAT HE WILL NOT FIRE THE TWO BECAUSE HE HASN'T RECEIVED OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION THAT T*EY HAVE BEEN FIRED. HE DOUBTS THAT SUCH ACTION IS LEGAL ACCORDING TO THE NEW LAW, AND HE FEELS THAT IT WOULD BE INCORRECT AND CONTRARY TO THE PROCESS OF "NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION" TO FIRE THEM. THIS LAST POINT HAS BEEN MADE BY ERNESTO VILLANUEVA WHO REPLACED PUIGGROS AS RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY.

5. COMMENT: THE DEFIANCE OF KESTELBOIM AND VILLANUEVA LEAVES THE NEXT MOVE UP TO TAIANA WHO CAN EITHER BACK DOWN OR ESCALATE T*E CONFRONTATION. THE MAJORITY OF STUDENTS AND FACULTY IN GENERAL PROBABLY OPPOSE THE ATTEMPTED FIRINGS BUT BECAUSE OF THEIR DISLIKE OF GOA INTERFERENCE IN THE UNIVERSITY, RATHER THAN AN AGREEMENT WITH THE POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY OF THE TWO. THE JUVENTUD UNIVERSITARIA PERONISTA (JUP) AND SOME FACULTY GROUPS HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED THIS LINE OF THOUGHT. IF TAIANA WANTS TO MAKE THE DECISION STICK, HE CAN PROBABLY DO SO, BUT AT SOME COST. HE WILL PROBABLY NOT RISK PROVOKING A CRISIS AT THIS TIME, HOWEVER, BUT WILL NO DOUBT CONTINUE WITH EFFORTS TO WEED OUT EXTREME LEFTISTS WHILE NOT ALIENATING MORE MODERATE LEFTIST PERONISTS ON CAMPUS.
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